IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Cancelled).

2.   (Currently Amended) An IC card terminal unit comprising:

communication means for communicating data between two IC cards;

first key setting means for storing a plurality of second ~~key~~ keys for encoding or decoding a first key in the two IC cards respectively by transmitting a key setting instruction to which the plurality of second ~~key~~ keys ~~is~~ are added to the two IC cards through the communication means;

confirmation means for confirming whether setting of the second key by the first key setting means ~~normally~~ properly ends;

key generation means for generating the first key for encoding or decoding data in the former IC card by transmitting a key generation instruction to one of the two IC cards through the communication means when it is confirmed by the confirmation means that setting of the second key ~~normally~~ properly ends;

key takeout means for taking out the first key generated in the former IC card generating the first key by the key generation means through the communication means by transmitting a key takeout instruction to the former IC card through the communication means, the generated first key being encoded by said plurality of second keys in the former IC card; and

second key setting means for storing the first key in the latter IC card, the first key being decoded by said plurality of second keys, by transmitting an encoding-key setting instruction to which the encoded first key taken out of the former IC card by the key takeout means is added to the latter IC card of the two IC cards.

3.   (Cancelled).

4.   (Currently Amended) The IC card duplication method according to claim ~~3~~ 6, wherein the key for encoding or decoding the data stored in the first IC card is generated in

the first IC card in accordance with the key generation instruction input from the terminal unit.

5.   (Currently Amended) The IC card duplication method according to claim 3 6, wherein the key for encoding or decoding the data stored in the first IC card is generated by an external unit and input through the terminal unit.

6.   (Currently Amended) An IC card duplication method using a first IC card to be duplicated in which at least a first key for encoding or decoding data is stored, a duplicating second IC card, and a terminal unit for handling these first and second IC cards, comprising:

a first step of transmitting a key-setting instruction to which a plurality of second key keys for encoding or decoding the first key is added from the terminal unit to the first and second IC cards;

a second step of receiving the key-setting instruction transmitted from the terminal unit and storing the plurality of second key keys added to the key-setting instruction in the first and second IC cards;

a third step of transmitting a key takeout instruction from the terminal unit to the first IC card;

a fourth step of receiving the key takeout instruction transmitted form the terminal unit, encoding the first key by the plurality of second key keys stored in the second step, and transmitting the encoded first key to the terminal unit in the first IC card;

a fifth step of receiving the encoded first key transmitted from the first IC card and transmitting an encoding-key setting instruction to which the received encoded first key is added to the second IC card in the terminal unit; and

a sixth step of receiving the encoding-key setting instruction transmitted from the terminal unit, decoding the encoded first key added to the encoding-key setting instruction by the second key stored in the second step, and storing the decoded first key in the second IC card.

7. – 9. (Cancelled).

10.   (New) An IC card duplication system provided with a first IC card to be duplicated in which at least a first key for encoding or decoding data is stored, a duplicating

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second IC card, and a terminal unit according to claim 2 for handling these first and second IC cards, comprising:

key setting instruction transmitting means for transmitting a key setting instruction to which a plurality of second keys has been added from the terminal unit to the first and second IC cards;

second key storage means for receiving the key setting instruction transmitted from the terminal unit by the key setting instruction means and storing each of the plurality of second keys added to the key setting instruction in the first and second IC cards;

key takeout instruction transmitting means for transmitting a key takeout instruction from the terminal unit to the first IC card;

first key encoding means for receiving the key takeout instruction transmitted form the terminal unit by the key takeout instruction transmitting means and encoding the first key by the plurality of second keys stored by the second key storage means in the first IC card,

first key transmitting means for transmitting a first key encoded by the first encoding means to the terminal unit in the first IC card;

encoding key setting instruction transmitting means for receiving the first encoding key transmitted from the first IC card by the first key transmitting means, and transmitting the encoding key setting instruction to which the first encoding key which has been received, is added, to the second IC card in the terminal unit;

first key encoding means for receiving an encoding key setting instruction transmitted from the terminal unit by the encoding key setting instruction transmitting means, and for decoding the first encoded key added to the encoding key setting instruction by a plurality of second keys stored in the second key storage means in the second IC card, and

first key storage means for storing the first decoded key by the first encoding means in the second IC card.

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